

APRIL 1992: For the first time since September 1990, consecutive months with below normal temperatures were reported at DCA, IAD, and BWI (see cover). The daily temperature departures were typical of spring, with large deviations occurring during the month. Significant cool spells, however, dominated the month and kept April's average temperature slightly below normal. At National, the first six days averaged about 8°F below normal as a cold, northwesterly flow had a firm grip on the area. While readings moderated during the next two weeks and even soared into the eighties on a few days, more unseasonably cold conditions prevailed during the final week of April (4/25–4/30 departure: -5.7°F), assuring the region of the first colder than normal March and April since 1984. The last freezing date (barring any May chill) was April 4 at all the locations except Dulles (April 6).

Precipitation was generally below normal throughout most of the area thanks to an extremely dry first half of April. April 1–15 totals ranged from 0.01" at IAD up to 0.15" at DCA. Monthly exceptions included portions of the western suburbs (IAD: 3.15") and northern sections (co-op observer A. Horvitz, Montgomery county: 3.41") of Washington as the result of a major rain event on April 21–22. One half to an inch of rain fell on the city and eastern suburbs, but over two inches soaked the western suburbs. Farther to the west and southwest, parts of the central Appalachians experienced extensive flooding from this system where 4–8 inches of rain were observed. The second major storm to affect the area was a cold rain during the night of April 25–26 that brought up to 3/4" to the region. Unlike April 1–15, precipitation was frequent during the second half of the month, with 12 of 15 days recording rain at DCA and ADW (11–15 at IAD, BWI, and DAA).

APRIL 1992 WEATHER STATISTICS FOR THE WASHINGTON/BALTIMORE AREA:

Station Location	Temperatures (°F)					Extreme/Day		Precipitation (In)		
	AvMx	AvMn	AvgT	NmIT	DepNm	MaxT	MinT	Total	Norm	DepNm
National (DCA)	65.1	45.7	55.4	56.7	-1.3	85/17	31/4*	2.55	2.93	-0.38
Baltimore (BWI)	62.3	41.6	51.9	54.0	-2.1	84/17	25/4	1.76	3.35	-1.59
Dulles (IAD)	64.6	41.5	53.1	53.3	-0.2	85/17	28/4	3.15	3.14	+0.01
Ft. Belvoir (DAA)	66.5	43.2	54.9	55	0	85/17	27/4	2.21	3.2	-1.0
Andrews AFB(ADW)	63.8	42.1	52.9	55	-2.0	84/17@	25/4	1.69	3.0	-1.3

Other dates of occurrence: * April 3rd, @April 11th.

LOOKING AHEAD: 3 Successive Colder than Normal Months?

It has been 8 years since all three major airports (DCA, BWI, IAD) recorded three consecutive months with subnormal temperatures [March, April, May 1984]. After an unseasonably cold March and April and a forecasted (by Prediction Branch, CAC) colder than normal May for the area, the odds appear favorable for 3 in-a-row.

FYI: The cold Spring of 1984 was followed by a cool Summer at IAD (-1.0°F) and BWI (-0.8°F), and a seasonable June–August at DCA (+0.1°F).